



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Fact Sheet**Potato Diversion Program****Background**

USDA has announced plans to pay potato growers to divert 1996-crop fresh Irish potatoes to charitable institutions or for use as livestock feed. The Potato Diversion Program will assist fresh Irish potato growers faced with oversupplies and low prices. This program is being administered under the direction and supervision of the Agricultural Marketing Service, and implemented under the direction and supervisions of the Farm Service Agency.

Additional Information

For a complete description of program benefits and requirements, see the interim rule filed in the May 29, 1997, Federal Register available at local county Farm Service Agency offices after publication.

Sign Up

Sign up for the Potato Diversion Program at the county FSA office:

- Charitable diversion
May 29 - June 11, 1997
- Livestock feed diversion
May 29 - July 28, 1997
- Diversions must be completed by
July 28, 1997.

Eligibility

All types and varieties of 1996-crop fresh potatoes (except sweet potatoes) fit for human consumption and produced and stored in the U.S. diverted to charitable organizations or for livestock feed.

Quality Requirements

- U.S. No. 2 (fairly clean) for charitable diversion
- U.S. No. 2 Processing for livestock feed

Unrestricted inspection and certification by an authorized USDA inspector is required. All potatoes must be fit for human consumption and free from any water damage. All lots destined for charitable institutions require Positive-Lot Identification or certification of trailer.

Payment Rates

- Charitable organization -- \$1.50 per cwt.
- Livestock feed -- \$0.75 per cwt.

Additional Requirements

Charitable organization diversions must be in 400 cwt. truck load lots, 50 pound cartons or bags on pallets. After receipt of Notice to Deliver, producer must arrange and pay for grading.

Livestock feed diversions will be paid for in whole cwt. units. Producer must arrange for and pay for processing (make unsuitable for normal trade or commerce), grading, and transportation.

Payment Documentation

Payment documentation required no later than August 28, 1997:

Charitable organization diversion: Form FSA-118, Copy of Notice to Deliver, and Shipment Bill of Lading.

Livestock feed diversion: Form FSA-118, Livestock delivery receipt (showing name, address, and telephone number of recipient), cwt. received, and date of receipt.

Shipment

USDA will arrange for the shipment of potatoes approved on an FSA-117 for diversion to charitable organizations. Any potatoes not selected for shipment will not be eligible for payment. If a producer is notified that potatoes will not be used for charitable diversion while sign up is open, the producer may request approval to divert the potatoes for livestock feeding.

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